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Microsoft Windows SDK

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Microsoft Windows SDK, and its predecessors **Platform SDK**, and **.NET Framework SDK**, are [software development kits](#) (SDKs) from [Microsoft](#) that contain [documentation](#), [header files](#), [libraries](#), samples and tools required to develop applications for [Microsoft Windows](#) and [.NET Framework](#).^[1] *Platform SDK* specializes in developing applications for [Windows 2000](#), [XP](#) and [Windows Server 2003](#). *.NET Framework SDK* is dedicated to developing applications for [.NET Framework 1.1](#) and [.NET Framework 2.0](#). *Windows SDK* is the successor of the two and supports developing applications for [Windows XP](#) and later, as well as [.NET Framework 3.0](#) and later.^[2]

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Microsoft Windows Software Development Kit

Developer(s)	Microsoft Corporation
Stable release	10 / November 30, 2015
Operating system	Windows XP , Windows Server 2003 , Windows Vista , Windows Server 2008 , Windows 7 , Windows 8 , Windows 10
Type	API
License	Various
Website	Windows SDK Developer Center on MSDN 

Features [\[edit \]](#)

Platform SDK is the successor of the original Microsoft Windows SDK for [Windows 3.1x](#) and Microsoft Win32 SDK for [Windows 9x](#). It was released in 1999 is the oldest SDK. Platform SDK contains [compilers](#), tools, documentations, header files, libraries and samples needed for software development on [IA-32](#), [x64](#) and [IA-64 CPU architectures](#). *.NET Framework SDK* however, came to being with [.NET Framework](#). Starting with [Windows Vista](#), the Platform SDK, .NET Framework SDK, Tablet PC SDK and Windows Media SDK are replaced by a new unified kit called *Windows SDK*. However, the .NET Framework 1.1 SDK is not included since the .NET Framework 1.1 does not ship with Windows Vista. (Windows Media Center SDK for Windows Vista ships separately.) DirectX SDK was merged into Windows SDK with the release of Windows 8.^[3]









Windows SDK allows the user to specify the components to be installed and where to install them. It integrates with [Visual Studio](#), so that multiple copies of the components that both have are not installed; however, there are compatibility caveats if either of the two is not from the same era.^{[4][5]} Information shown can be filtered by content, such as showing only new Windows Vista content, only .NET Framework content, or showing content for a specific language or technology.

Windows SDKs available for free; they were once available on Microsoft Download Center but were moved to [MSDN](#) on 2012.

A developer might want to use an older SDK for a particular reason. For example, the Windows Server 2003 Platform SDK released in February 2003 was the last SDK to provide full support of Visual Studio 6.0. Some older PSDK versions can still be downloaded from the Microsoft Download center; others can be ordered on CD/DVD.^[6]

Microsoft SDK version release history^[7]

Name	Version number	Build number	Release date	Download	Notes
Microsoft Windows Software Development Kit	3.1	?	?	?	
Microsoft Windows Software Development Kit	3.11	?	?	?	
Microsoft Win32 Software Development Kit	3.1	?	?	?	
Microsoft Win32 Software	3.5	?	?	?	

Development Kit					
Microsoft Win32 Software Development Kit	3.51	?	?	?	
Microsoft Win32 Software Development Kit	4.0	?	?	?	
Microsoft Platform SDK April 1999	?	?	1999-04	?	MSDN subscription CD-ROM disc. Last Platform SDK to <i>officially install</i> on <i>Windows 95</i>
Microsoft Platform SDK September 1999	?	?	1999-09	?	MSDN subscription CD-ROM disc. Last Platform SDK to <i>fully support Visual C++ 5.0</i>
Microsoft Platform SDK February 2001	?	?	2001-02	?	
Microsoft Platform SDK June 2001	?	?	2001-06	?	MSDN subscription CD-ROM disc. Last Platform SDK to <i>officially develop</i> for <i>Windows 95</i> . (Does not <i>officially install</i> on <i>Windows 95</i>)
Microsoft Platform SDK August 2001	?	5.1.2601.0	2001-08	[2] 	MSDN subscription CD-ROM disc. Last Platform SDK to <i>unofficially develop</i> for <i>Windows 95</i> . (Does not <i>officially install</i> on <i>Windows 95</i>)
Microsoft Platform SDK November 2001	?	5.2.3590.2	2001-11	[3] 	
Microsoft Platform SDK May 2002	?	5.2.3639.1	2002-05	[4] 	
Microsoft Platform SDK July 2002	?	5.2.3663.0	2002-07	[5] 	
Microsoft Platform SDK August 2002	?	5.2.3672.1	2002-08	[6] 	
Microsoft Platform SDK November 2002	?	5.2.3718.1	2002-11	[7] 	
Microsoft Platform SDK February 2003	?	5.2.3790.0	2003-02	[8] 	Last version with VC6 support ^[8] and latest version with Windows 95 and Windows 98 support.
.NET Framework SDK Version 1.1	?	1.1.4322.573	2003-03-29	[9] 	Included in Visual Studio 2003 . Does not include the Platform SDK.
Microsoft Platform SDK for					

Windows XP SP2	?	5.1.2600.2180	2004-08	[10]	
Windows Server 2003 SP1 Platform SDK	?	5.2.3790.1830.15	2005-05-02	[11]	
Windows Server 2003 R2 Platform SDK	?	5.2.3790.2075.51	2006-03-14	[12]	Also suggested by MS to work with VS6 [9]
.NET Framework 2.0 Software Development Kit	?	2.0.50727.42	2006-11-29	[13]	Included in Visual Studio 2005 Professional . Does not include the Platform SDK.
Microsoft Windows Software Development Kit for Windows Vista and .NET Framework 3.0 Runtime Components	v6.0	6.0.6000.16384	2006-10-30	[14]	The C++ compilers in this SDK release support the /analyze key.
Microsoft Windows Software Development Kit Update for Windows Vista	v6.1	6.1.6000.16384.10	2007-03-22	[15]	First unified .NET and Platform SDK. Does not support Visual Studio .NET 2003 and Microsoft Visual C++ Toolkit 2003
Included in Visual Studio 2008 [10]	v6.0a	6.1.6723.1	2007-11-19	[16]	
Windows SDK for Windows Server 2008 and .NET Framework 3.5	v6.1	6.0.6001.18000.367	2008-02-05	[17]	.NET Framework 3.5
Microsoft Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 3.5 SP1	v7.0	6.1.7600.16385	2009-07-24	[18]	
Included in Visual Studio 2010	v7.0a	6.1.7600.16385	2010-04-12	[19]	.NET Framework 4. Works only with Visual Studio 2010 and not Visual Studio 2010 Express . This is also the last version to include offline documentation. [11]
Microsoft Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 4	v7.1	7.1.7600.0.30514	2010-05-21 [12]	[20]	It is the latest version that officially supports Windows XP target.
Included in Visual Studio 2012 Update 1 (or later)	v7.1A	7.1.51106	?	?	Introduces the "v110_xp" platform toolset
Microsoft Windows SDK for Windows 8 and .NET Framework 4.5	v8.0	6.2.9200.16384	2012-11-15 [13]	[21]	.NET Framework 4.5, Windows Store apps and Integrated DirectX SDK
Included in Visual Studio 2012	v8.0A	8.0.50727	?	?	
Windows Software					Windows 8.1, .NET Framework 4.5.1,

Development Kit (SDK) for Windows 8.1	v8.1	8.100.25984.0	2013-10-17	[22]	Windows Store apps and Integrated DirectX SDK
Included in Visual Studio 2013	v8.1A	8.1.51636	?	?	Includes the "v120_xp" platform toolset
Windows Standalone SDK for Windows 10	v10	10.0.10240.0	2015-07-29	[23]	Also included in Visual Studio 2015 ^[14]
Windows Standalone SDK for Windows 10, Version 1511 ^[15]	v10	10.0.10586.0	2015-11-30	[24]	Also included in Visual Studio 2015 Update 1 & 2 ^[16]
Windows Standalone SDK for Windows 10, Version 1607	v10	10.0.14393.0	Aug 2016	[25]	

Removed features of Windows SDK

Version	Removed feature
Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 ^[17]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capicom.dll (CAPICOM is deprecated) • iacom.dll • ialoader.dll • msistuff.exe • perflibmig.exe • permlcalc.exe • secutil.exe • windowssideshowvirtualdevice.exe (replaced by DeviceSimulatorforWindowsSideShow.msi) • wppperf.msi (now included in the Windows Performance Toolkit suite) • xamlpad.exe (XAMLPad)
Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 4 ^[18]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UISpy.exe (Replaced by newer tools) • Wpt_arch.msi • Managed code samples (Moved to Code Gallery) • DExplore document viewer (Can be separately installed)
Windows Software Development Kit (SDK) for Windows 8 ^[19]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Command-line build environment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows SDK Platform Toolset • Visual C++ Compilers and C Runtime (CRT) • Windows SDK Configuration Tool • Tools and reference assemblies for versions of the .NET Framework earlier than 4.5 • Apatch.exe • Bind.exe • Checkv4.exe • Consume.exe • DeviceSimulatorForWindowsSideShow.msi • Err.exe • FDBrowser.exe • FXCopSetup.exe • Guidgen.exe • Make-Shell.exe • MDbg.exe • Mpatch.exe • MSIZap.exe • PTConform.exe • ReBase.exe • sddlgen.exe • setenv.cmd

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SetReg.exe • SoapSuds.exe • Sporder.exe • TcpAnalyzer.exe • TSPDesigner.exe • UTL2IDL.exe • ValidateSD.exe • VirtualLightSensor.exe • WinDiff.exe • WpfPerf.exe • All Windows samples (moved to Code Gallery) • Microsoft Help Viewer • IntelliSense XML documentation comments for the .NET Framework reference assemblies
Windows Software Development Kit (SDK) for Windows 8.1 ^[20]	Nothing
Windows Software Development Kit (SDK) for Windows 10	Nothing ^[21]

Documentation [[edit](#)]

The Windows SDK documentation includes manuals documenting:

- Desktop app development with [Windows API](#) and [managed code](#)
- [Metro-style app](#) development using [Windows Runtime](#) and [Universal Windows Platform](#)
- Web app development using [ASP.NET](#), [HTML](#), [CSS](#) and [JavaScript](#)
- Language-related topics for C++, C#, Visual Basic.NET, F#, JavaScript, CSS and HTML, such as syntax and conventions ([Windows PowerShell](#) language is not covered.)

See also [[edit](#)]

- [MSDN Library](#)
- [Windows Driver Kit](#)

References [[edit](#)]

- ↑ "[Windows SDK: Download Windows Server 2008 SDK and more](#)". *Microsoft Developer Network*. Microsoft Corporation. Retrieved 6 December 2009.
- ↑ "[Windows SDK Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)". *Microsoft Developer Network*. Microsoft Corporation. Retrieved 6 December 2009. Archived [September 26, 2009](#), at the [Wayback Machine](#).^[The template *Wayback* is being considered for merging.]
- ↑ "[Where is the DirectX SDK?](#)". *Windows Dev Center*. Microsoft. Retrieved 20 February 2016.
- ↑ "[Windows SDK Fails to Install with Return Code 5100](#)". *Support*. Microsoft. 5 June 2012.
- ↑ Stewart, Heath (1 April 2011). "Visual C++ 2010 SP1 Compiler Update for the Windows SDK 7.1". *Setup & Install by Heath Stewart*. Microsoft.
- ↑ [Microsoft Software Development Kits CD Order](#)
- ↑ [Windows and Windows Phone SDK archive](#)
- ↑ [Windows® Server 2003 SP1 Platform SDK Web Install](#), Microsoft Download Center "The last SDK that will work with VC 6.0 is the February 2003 Edition, you can order a CD on the fulfillment site."
- ↑ [1]. Social.msdn.microsoft.com. Retrieved on 2014-02-16.
- ↑ [Microsoft Windows SDK Blog: New samples in Win 7 SDK: Direct2D and DirectWrite](#)
- ↑ "[Windows SDK 7.1 release notes](#)". Retrieved 23 July 2014.
- ↑ [Released: Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 4](#)
- ↑ [Windows SDK for Windows 8 – Windows Dev Center](#). Msdn.microsoft.com. Retrieved on 2014-02-16.
- ↑ [Building Apps for Windows 10 with Visual Studio 2015](#)
- ↑ [Windows 10 SDK Release Notes](#)
- ↑ [Visual Studio 2015 Update 1 Release Notes](#)
- ↑ [Release Notes, Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 3.5 SP1](#)
- ↑ [Release Notes, Microsoft Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 4](#)
- ↑ "[Windows Software Development Kit \(SDK\) for Windows 8](#)". *Windows Dev Center*. Microsoft. Retrieved 20 February 2016.
- ↑ "[Windows Software Development Kit \(SDK\) for Windows 8](#)". *Windows Dev Center*. Microsoft. Retrieved 20 February 2016.
- ↑ "[Windows Software Development Kit \(SDK\) for Windows 10](#)". *Windows Dev Center*. Microsoft.

External links [[edit](#)]

- [Windows SDK Blog](#)

V • T • E Microsoft development tools		
Development environments	Visual Studio	Code • Express • Lab Management • Team System Profiler • Test Professional • Tools for Applications • Tools for Office
	Others	.NET Compiler Platform • App Studio • Blend • Expression Web • GW-BASIC • Microsoft Pascal • MSBuild • Robotics Developer Studio • SharePoint Designer (FrontPage) • PowerShell ISE • QuickBASIC (QBasic) • QuickC • Small Basic • WebMatrix • Windows SDK (CLR Profiler • ILAsm • Native Image Generator • XAMLPad)
Languages	Microsoft Basic • Visual Basic • Visual Basic .NET • Visual C++ (C++/CX • C++/CLI • Managed C++) • C# (Visual C#) • F# • J# • Visual FoxPro • IronPython • IronRuby • JScript • PowerShell • TypeScript • VBScript • XAML	
Major APIs and frameworks (See all)	Windows API • Silverlight • XNA • DirectX (Managed DirectX) • Xbox Development Kit • Windows Installer	
	.NET Framework	ASP.NET (ASP.NET Core • ASP.NET AJAX • ASP.NET Dynamic Data • ASP.NET MVC • ASP.NET Razor) • ADO.NET (Entity Framework) • CardSpace • Communication Foundation • Identity Foundation • LINQ • Presentation Foundation • Workflow Foundation
	Device drivers	WDK • WDF (KMDF • UMDF) • Windows Hardware Certification Kit • WDM
Database	SQL Server	Express • Compact • Management Studio • Business Intelligence Development Studio • MSDE
	SQL services	Analysis • Reporting • Integration • Notification
	Other	Visual FoxPro • Microsoft Access • Jet Engine • Extensible Storage Engine • Azure DocumentDB
Source control	Team Foundation Server • Visual SourceSafe	
Delivery	Active Setup • ClickOnce • NuGet • Web Platform • Windows Installer (WiX) • Windows Store	

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